

FOGHORN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST OSBORNE GROUP

FOG

Vol. III No. 3

Special, 1983

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JAN 03 1983

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VACATION TIME

The following columns were omitted from this issue due to a lack of material. Please contribute some of your hard learned tricks, programs, ideas, flights of fancy, etc. This is the only payment sought by the authors of all the pieces found in these pages. By contributing, you save someone else time that can then be spent solving new problems. By hesitating, you force someone else to rediscover your solution.

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The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. The **FOGHORN** is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription providing bulk mail delivery to an address in the U.S. is included with membership in FOG for \$24.00 per year. See chart below for the additional postage required for other locations. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

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Trustee John Gaudio

FOG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), with NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF. The submissions can be sent on diskette by mail (to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474), copied to a FOG diskette at a First FOG of Silicon Valley meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or other officer of FOG. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience. If you send your contribution on disc and specify which disc you would like, we will overwrite your disc with one from the library.

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Commercial Advertising

Commercial advertisements must be submitted as camera ready copy.

Size limitations for advertising are as follows:

full page: 7" x 9.5"
half page: 3.5" x 9.5" or 7" x 4.75"
quarter page: 3.5" x 4.75"

Rates, effective with the March, 1983 issue are:

\$270/full page, \$150/half page, \$105/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available. Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

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Submission Deadlines

All material is due two months in advance of the month of publication. (October 1st for the December issue). No exceptions will be made for advertising material. This change is necessary if the **FOGHORN** is to be mailed before the first of the month. Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

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Back Issues — Reprints

Reprints of ALL back issues are available. The current cost of back issues is \$1.50 per issue to partially cover reprint and mailing costs. Non U.S. members should include funds for AIRMAIL postage. Donations of additional sums will be gratefully accepted.

Not all issues are of value to new members. Vol. 1 No. 1 (October, 1981) was primarily a greeting and a plea for help in getting this group going. Vol. 2 No. 3 (December, 1982) was a 2 page issue with holiday greetings and an advertisement for SuperGraphics. Mailed with this issue was a copy of the original bylaws which have since been modified several times.

There were 11 issues in Vol. 1 since we put out a combined issue for June and July, 1982. For those who are attempting to determine which copies from Vol. 1 are of interest, Vol. 2, No. 2 (November, 1982) has a partial index for Vol. 1. November, 1983 (Vol. 3, No. 2) has a partial index for Vol. 2.

Mark envelope "BACK ISSUE REQUEST" and include your account-membership number. Please send the order to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Orders are shipped once a week. The index to the previous year is published in the November (#2) issue.

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Copies of Library Disks

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from the FOG office if copies cannot be obtained through their local group. Individual disks are \$5.00 each. Bulk orders of 10 or more disks earn a discount of \$1.00 per disk.

Shipping and handling charges are \$5.00 per order or address. This \$5.00 charge must be included with every order. Please be sure to include your account-membership number. Orders without this number will be delayed since no disk orders will be shipped without this number.

For a listing of the programs and files in the library, consult the library column in each issue of Vol. 2 (except No. 3 — December, 1982). The section of the library called -FOG/LIB includes both Jim Woolley's material from the library column and a catalog program which lists the name and disk location of each program (but no descriptions).

In response to the many requests, we have published a typeset guide to the library. This has the descriptions of every disk in the library as well as the guidelines for library use. It is a loose leaf, binder punched volume. This format was selected to facilitate updates. Each copy will be in a portfolio. The price is \$5.00 which includes shipping by 3rd Class (surface mail). Update pages will be offered on a quarterly basis. Details about the update pages will be announced later.

Affiliated Members Organizations (AMO) may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an Affiliated Member Organization may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474 (phone 415-755-4140) for further details.

New additions will be sent to participants in the monthly update service as soon as copies can be made.

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Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations

Rebates of 25% of the membership rate (\$24.00) will be made to Affiliated Member Organization (AMO) on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the group MUST be on the membership form (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the Affiliated Member Organization is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for Affiliated Member Organization status must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a list of the officers — names and FOG membership number — and a signed copy of the group bylaws. For further details, request an AMO information packet.

It is not necessary that a group be affiliated when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the group receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

The Board of Trustees has approved a minor change in the rebate policy for groups who are Affiliate Member Organizations. If the AMO has a checking account, the treasurer may collect membership dues for renewing or new members and forward only \$18.00 (plus appropriate postal surcharges) to FOG. This allows the group to have immediate access to the rebate funds. Please note that the two requirements for this change will be strictly enforced. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

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Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent **FOGHORN** together with the new address either in an envelope marked "CHANGE OF ADDRESS" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

You should also request that the post office forward any issues that arrive before your address change is posted. You must tell the post office that you will pay forwarding charges since bulk mail is NOT automatically forwarded.

FOG cannot be responsible for additional postage charged because a member delays sending in a change of address.

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Additional Postage Charges

Your membership in FOG (\$24.00) covers delivery by Non-profit bulk mail. This rate is only available to members who have bulk mail delivered by the U. S. Postal Service. For those who either cannot receive U.S. bulk mail or prefer first class delivery, please add the appropriate amount (from the chart below) to your payment.

The following is a list of additional charges which must be included with new or renewal memberships effective 9/1/83:

Canada & Mexico (First Class).....	ADD...\$ 6.00
Members with U.S. addresses who prefer First Class delivery to Non-profit bulk mail.....	ADD...\$ 6.00
Central & South America, Caribbean, & Europe (Airmail First Class delivery)	ADD...\$12.00
Asia, Africa, & Far East (Airmail First Class).....	ADD...\$15.00
Out of North America preferring surface mail — delivery not guaranteed.....	ADD...\$ 6.00

If you want the new rates to take effect for your current membership, you may prorate the above charges for the remaining term of your membership. For each month remaining, send 1/12th of the above rates.

For those with U.S. addresses who elect to continue receiving their **FOGHORN** by Non-profit bulk mail, we have some suggestions for improving delivery. The post office guidelines say that bulk mail can only be traced by the recipient but that delivery in the San Francisco Bay Area should take about seven working days and to the East Coast about 15 working days. We are now taking the bulk mail to the post office before the first of each month. If you are not getting timely delivery of the **FOGHORN** you should contact your local postmaster. If he is unable to improve the situation, there is a complaint form at each post office. We have been assured that all complaints are pursued promptly.

We are now paying return postage for all undeliverable copies of the **FOGHORN**. This allows us to better identify problems. FOG will be responsible for costs incurred remailing a **FOGHORN** only if the member has provided us with the correct address in a timely manner. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to drop us a note listing all of the specifics.

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Please help

It is essential that you include your account-membership number in all correspondence.

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FROM THE FOG

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY — AGAIN!!

by Frank Morton

Well how about that!?! Another year has slipped by right before our very eyes. To quote myself "They say time flies when you are having fun, and I believe it. It has been hectic, and tiring sometimes, and lots of work, but IT HAS BEEN FUN!" I stated that a year ago, and it is still VERY TRUE! Having the able help of all those listed as Officers and Trustees, as well as innumerable other individuals has made it a lot easier. We sincerely appreciate all of your help, and all of you have helped in one way or another. Your contributions and enthusiasm are what keeps us going!

A year ago I said "Do you realize that although there are now close to 1500 of us we are all pioneers?! This is just the beginning." There are now over 5500 members of FOG! It has been a big year in the growth department, just as we anticipated. We are happy to have so many of you join us. This growth is a charge and a responsibility that we do not take lightly. We intend to keep providing the help and service that attracted you to FOG.

Last March we held our first general election for the Board of Trustees. A little over 25% of the eligible membership voted. We understand, for a vote by mail, that is outstanding no matter how involved the membership or how heated the issues. The existing leadership got a resounding vote of confidence, which made us feel that we were at least headed in the right direction and certainly gave us a big boost to continue our work. I asked for and received many Proxies. That was very gratifying, but it did not change the outcome of the elections perceptibly; since the popular vote was much as I had hoped and my Proxies, numerous as they were, were not significant enough to grossly change the election (even if I had wished to do so, which I did not).

Last year at this time I looked to the future and expressed a couple of "New Year's resolutions". I said "I can see chapters everywhere, International Conventions, and a chance to do a lot of good." This may be the cause of the misconception that we have heard from a few sources. It seems that some have the belief that FOG intends or desires to swallow or absorb other Osborne Users' Groups. That is not the case at all. Our desire is that of our non-profit charter; to provide an educational and help benefit to the general public on the subject of micro-computers. In the process it is proving worthwhile to be organized as an association of Affiliated Member Organizations with communication and networking through the central Corporate staff and Officers.

My first resolution was a rather general one "... to continue working, with your help, to make FOG not only something we all can enjoy and be proud of, but also an organization that will hopefully be a positive force for good in the world." We have made a lot of progress in that direction, but the resolution is still valid. My second, more personal, resolution to "... read my OCC Users' Reference Guide from start to finish" did not get accomplished. In the interim the Technical Manual finally came out. I confess I haven't completely read it yet either. So I guess I had best stop making rash resolutions, even though the concept of reading the Manuals is a good one.

What has been happening ... at FOG?

As I mentioned, the membership is over 5500. We now have over 50 Affiliated Member Organizations. Our members are in all states and over 45 foreign countries. You should see the beautiful stamps on some of our mail. We number quite a few celebrities in our group, but I won't name any names. We are no longer only owners of Osborne 1 computers. Now members include owners of the Osborne Executive, Morrow Micro Decision, Kaypro, Zorba, and a number of other machines as well. That is great. As long as we can exchange non-proprietary software and help each other to learn about the use of micro-computers in general, it will be of benefit to us all. We are again phototypesetting the newsletter, with printing on a Web press. More important, the newsletters are on schedule! I am sure that this is greatly appreciated by all. We have optional higher rates for improved mailing to overseas members, in order to make their newsletters arrive on a more timely basis. We now have an office staff headed by our full time Executive Director Gale Rhoades, who is responsible for so much of what has been accomplished. The rest of the staff presently consists of part time employees and a number of very helpful volunteers.

Gale has put our financial accounting and membership record keeping on custom programmed dBASE II application programs. This allows us to have a good handle on our financial status on an accrual basis. The data entry programs have been customized to take maximum advantage of volunteer labor and untrained part time employees when they are needed. We had a lot of excellent volunteer help through the summer. We sincerely appreciate all who have donated their time to help. I am sure that anyone who has helped will tell you that it is a two-way street. I don't think anyone has helped without learning in the process.

We rented temporary office space from H & R Block in Daly City early in the summer. It was close to the Daly City Post Office and worked out very well. Moving our mail address to Daly City helped to speed our response time. We are still getting a little mail in Palo Alto, but it takes about one half of a week for me to get it to the staff in Daly City. Starting in September we moved to a different, permanent (for now anyhow) office at a very convenient location in Daly City. Through a special arrangement with H & R Block we have a fair amount of space at a very reasonable price. With the space to get organized and enough financial confidence to purchase some much needed office equipment, we should become even more efficient.

You may recall my appeal for donations to a fund for developing a Remote Bulletin Board System (RBBS) with a kick-off donation. I am very happy to say your response has been very good! We now have enough to proceed with purchasing the necessary equipment. Our very able Technical Counsel Byron McKay has been hard at work helping us to get the necessary software up and running for our RBBS. (Did you know that in September Byron married Kim Tompkins, a delightful salesperson at the Digital Deli? We wish them all the best and much happiness.) Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be "on the air" with the first FOG RBBS. I cannot give you a phone number at this writing because of the Telephone strike. In addition, word has it that at least a half dozen other FOG members in various parts of the country are anxious to get their own RBBS on the air when debugged software is available to operate an RBBS successfully on an Osborne. As soon as we have more information available we will be sure to spread the word. In the mean time Byron has had a CP/M RBBS in operation at (415) 965-4097. I have finally gotten a Hayes 300/1200 baud modem and may even get an RBBS going myself. The Novation D-Cat that has served me well these past two years did not have an auto-answer capability.

[This was reprinted from the October, 1983 FOGHORN. We now have three RCP/M's up and working — the first is in Daly City, CA (415-755-2030), the second is in Vancouver, BC (604-596-0314), and the third is in Palo Alto, CA (415-949-2563).]

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ARTICLES

Greetings from FOG

by Gale Rhoades, Executive Director

We have put together this sample *FOGHORN* so that you will have some idea what the First Osborne Group is all about. Page 1 was taken from the November, 1983 *FOGHORN* to show the variety of information packed into every issue. Some issues will not be so large (48 pages), others will have even more pages. There is something of interest to every user in each issue. Many members write to say that they have saved time and/or money starting with the very first copy they receive.

Page 2 is in every issue of the *FOGHORN*. It has the most recent answers to frequently asked questions. Page 3 starts with a partial reprint of the October, 1983 President's message.

Page 15 of this issue is devoted to a flyer we have put together to solicit memberships. It includes the membership information we like to get for each new member. This inside back cover is normally devoted to descriptions of the special software and other items available for members. Included is a program that can turn every key on your keyboard into a special function key or allow you to configure use the Dvorak layout. Another program allows the Osborne to format, read, and write a number of other 5.25" disks.

With the current crisis at Osborne Computer Corporation (future unknown but optimistic on 11/23/83), many Osborne owners are wondering where they can go for support. Repairs are no longer a great concern since Xerox is now offering maintenance agreements. Other companies, both large and small are beginning to realize that with over 100,000 units out there and with component level servicing they can do repairs.

Even if OCC survives this crisis and reorganizes, they are not likely to do their own servicing again. Nor will they be able anytime soon to provide the enduser support that was attempted. Should reorganization plans be accepted by the creditors and approved by the court, management has indicated that the User Group will play a large roll in the recovery and future of the company. It was for this reason that they assisted FOG in obtaining the use of the mailing list used to send this sample *FOGHORN* to you.

It is appropriate that thanks be given to Sorcim, makers of SuperCalc, for the extraordinary assistance they have given FOG in recent months and for the SuperCalc2 upgrade offer which they made to all known Osborne owners, first through a mailing to anyone on the Osborne list of registered owners and the through FOG. This is the type of manufacturer support that FOG is working on with several companies. Should OCC finally fold, FOG will step up efforts to obtain the upgrades directly from the manufacturers.

It should be noted that some of the companies have agreements with Osborne Computer Corporation which limits their direct enduser support. Thus, approval must be obtained from OCC and/or the court before the companies can follow Sorcim's lead. As upgrades are made available, details will always be listed in the regular monthly *FOGHORN*.

I will end with the hope that you will join us in our endeavor to improve communication among all Osborne owners. If you know of any other users who have not received this mailing, please share the information with them. We will gladly send one of these sample *FOGHORN*'s to any friends if you will send us the address.

Osborne Users Will Not Be Left Out In The Cold!

by John Gaudio

Regardless of what happens at Osborne Computer Corporation (OCC), we Osborne owners have a lot going for us. In fact with the current price reductions an Osborne Computer is more than ever, the best buy for the dollar on the market.

Let's look at the worst possible case. What if OCC dries up and blows away tomorrow? How would you get a printer for your Osborne computer? What about a monitor? Where would you find an accounting package, or a program that plays space invaders? The answer is that all these things are exactly where they were before the trouble with OCC. The smartest thing Adam Osborne did was to make the Osborne a generic CP/M Computer.

HARDWARE

Both the Osborne 1 (01) and the Executive are designed to work with any standard printer on the market. Both will run standard RS-232 modems, both tie in to a Trantor hard disk system, and both will work with a standard monitor. True the O-1 requires an adaptor like JMM's Exmon, but even that was never made by Osborne. We can get all the peripherals we'd ever want. Not only are there printers, monitors, and modems out there, but digitizers, plotters, speech synthesizers, and even systems to control your bedroom lights. These are available from vendors that make products for lots of different computers, and their products are here to stay no matter what happens to OCC.

SOFTWARE

Osborne still hasn't offered an accounting package, but there are several out there running on Osborne computers. Over a hundred disks filled with public domain software are available to Osborne users through organizations like the First Osborne Group and the Denver Osborne Group. Thousands of CP/M programs are available both in the public domain on bulletin boards all over the country, and for sale in computer and software stores, and through mailorder houses around the world.

Much of this software is available in the standard Osborne format, but there are now programs available for the Osborne 1 that make it possible to use other formats with the Osborne. With programs like UNIFORM [available through FOG] and FILETRAN [available from Computer Systems Integration, Inc., P.O. Box 28113, Station #16, Dept. G, Lakewood, CO 80228] you can read many disks created for XEROX, OTRONA, DEC, ZENITH, IBM PC, and KAYPRO computers to mention just a part of the list. CP/M is still the eight bit standard of the industry, and I know there's a lot more software out there than I'll ever have time to try out. You can bet that the people producing it for all those different machines will be anxious to sell software to us, regardless of what happens to OCC.

SERVICE But what if your Osborne computer breaks down? Can anybody fix it? Can they get parts, or are you stuck with a CP/M based boat anchor? Most of the parts needed to fix an Osborne Computer can be purchased at any good electronics store. I've already seen a few independent repair operations spring up, and many of the Osborne dealers are taking it upon themselves to continue servicing the machine. Remember servicing computers is a big business, and a profitable one at that. There are about 150,000 Osborne computers out there to be serviced, and that translates to lots and lots of money. In fact, last October Xerox purchased a million dollars worth of parts from OCC and created a program through which Osborne users could buy a Xerox backed one year warranty for \$285.00, or a two year warranty for \$550.00. The deadline has passed for these warranties but Xerox says they will offer time and material service as long as they are able to obtain parts.

HELP But what if you need some help with your Osborne computer? Will you be all by yourself, struggling to make it work for you? Will you be left all alone? No! Tied in to each of those 150,000 Osborne



computers is a human being. We Osborne users are a pretty good sized bunch, and we've already created some tremendous networks for helping each other.

The largest, and one of the best of these networks is FOG, the First Osborne Group, with over 6,500 members all over the world. FOG acts to coordinate and help regional Osborne user's groups world wide, and publishes an extraordinary monthly newsletter called the **FOGHORN**. A partial directory of the regional groups can be found elsewhere in this issue. It lists the 56 Affiliated Member Organizations from Palo Alto, California to Bangkok, Thailand. FOG also has a list of over 200 other groups. The regular **FOGHORN** also has a calendar listing almost a hundred monthly meetings to be held around the world.

One of the best of the regional groups is DOG, the Denver Osborne Group, which I helped create. Our local meetings typically draw a hundred to a hundred and fifty people, at which our members do presentations to help keep us informed on the latest hardware and software innovations, and those little tricks that make using our Osbornes easier. The best part though is probably the help session section of the meeting. Here newcomers are paired up with some of the more knowledgeable members and the floor is opened to questions. Someone stands up with a problem, and then other members chime in with suggestions. Sometimes the people just make contact at this point, and then talk over their problems during the break. Either way, a lot of information and help changes hands at these meetings, and I'm sure similar things happen with other groups all over the world. The Denver Osborne Group also publishes a fine newsletter called DOG BYTES.

You can join either DOG or FOG for just \$24.00 a year, or, for \$42.00 you can sign up through the Denver Osborne Group for both FOG and DOG. The newsletters alone are worth the cost, and even distant members can get to the public domain software library through the mail. DOG has members in four countries.

The user's groups around the world exist for one reason, and that's to support their members. They'll keep working for you so as long you need and support them, and they're more important now than they ever were, regardless of what happens at OCC.

PROFESSIONAL HELP What if you have a question or problem that can't wait for the next monthly meeting, or you need someone to take you by the hand and teach you WordStar, SuperCalc, or dBaseII? What do you do then? Some of us make a living working with computers and solving other peoples problems. That's what I do for example. And if you get in touch with your local user's group you'll probably find a computer professional in your area that knows the Osborne well.

I built up my company over the last two years by helping people through classes, personal consulting, and even consulting by telephone. In fact I once helped a man in Saudi Arabia to set up his WordStar disk by telephone. I've even traveled to different parts of the country to offer consulting and classes, and to speak to the members of other user's groups. There are plenty of computer professionals around. We make our living by helping the users, and we'll be here as long as you need us, no matter what happens to OCC.

Of course it's not all a bed of roses. It takes longer to get parts than it used to, and OCC can't provide the level of end user support that they did in the old days, but with the current prices Osborne Computer users have still got more machine for the dollar than anything I've ever seen. There's no question that Adam Osborne made mistakes. He also made changes in the industry that will continue to benefit computer users for a long time. I once heard him say that "The pioneers are the ones with arrows in their backs." Here's hoping that OCC's arrow isn't a fatal one. In any case, our Osbornes are every bit as capable of working for us as they've ever been, and there's plenty of help out there, no matter what happens to OCC.

John Gaudio is an electrical engineer, and has been solving peoples computer problems for over ten years. He holds two U.S. patents on computer systems, and has specialized over the last two years in helping the users of Osborne computers.

XMODEM FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL

by D. L. Covill

The file transfer protocol used in the MODEMx series of programs is a very good, although not perfect, protocol that has become something of a de facto standard, because it is in the public domain and has been widely distributed on various remote CP/M systems across the country.

The protocol was originally developed by Ward Christensen, who wrote the original MODEM.ASM. It has since been enhanced by several others. This writeup is based on an article by Kelly Smith in CP/M-Net News, Jan 81, extended to include discussion of CRC and batch transfers.

WHAT IS A PROTOCOL AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

A protocol is, quite simply, the ritual courtesies exchanged by two separate but equal computer systems in order to insure an orderly and correct transfer of information. For short, interactive communications we can get along without one because the information transferred is visible, and if it looks wrong or we lose it we can immediately ask for it again.

The situation is different when transferring data or program files. The volume to be transferred is greater, thus there's a greater chance of transmission errors. It's not easy to tell whether an error has occurred (in COM files, for instance), and retransmitting the entire file would take too long and might only make things worse.

A protocol provides:

- a. Positive control over the process and procedure.
- b. A means of detecting errors in the transmission process.
- c. The ability to retransmit any portion that has errors.

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John Gaudio is an electrical engineer holding two U.S. Patents on computer systems. He's been a consultant to Osborne Computer Corporation and has written several articles for their magazine, The Portable Companion. He continues to write regularly for the newsletters of the First Osborne Group and the Denver Osborne Group, and has spent the last two years helping people to get more from their Osborne Computers. Survivor's Life Line is a Trademark of J. Gaudio Company.

Note, however, that BOTH parties to the transmission must use the SAME protocol, or the ritual doesn't work. That's the reason for this document — so that people that want to (or have to) use a program other than MODEM7 can implement the XMODEM protocol and join the great army of public-domain file transmitters.

CONTROL CHARACTERS USED

The following ASCII standard control characters are used in the protocol:

SOH	Start of Heading	01H	Control-A
ACK	Acknowledge	06H	Control-F
NAK	Negative Acknowledge	15H	Control-U
EOT	End of Transmission	04H	Control-D
CAN	Cancel	18H	Control-X

GENERAL TRANSMISSION SCHEME

Data is sent in 128 byte numbered blocks, with a single checksum appended to each block. The receiving computer performs its own checksum as it acquires the incoming data, and upon completing each block compares its result with the checksum from the sending computer. If they match, it returns an ACK to the sender, meaning "received OK, send some more". If they don't match, a NAK (15H) is returned, meaning "that didn't look right, please send it again". This process continues until the entire file has been transmitted (or the number of errors causes one of the parties to give up).

Received data is stored in memory, then written to disk every 16 blocks.

BLOCK FORMAT

The sending computer transmits a block in the following form:

SOH (START OF HEADING)	01H
Block #	8 bits
Complement of block number	8 bits
- 128 data bytes -	8 bits each
Checksum	8 bits

The checksum is calculated by summing the SOH, the block number, the block number complement, and the 128 data bytes.

STARTING THE TRANSMISSION

The sending and receiving systems have to get "in sync" to start the transmission. This turns out to be very simple — the sending computer simply waits for an initial NAK from the receiving computer. He's sure to get one, because the receiving computer will "time out" looking for data and send the NAK as a signal that he didn't receive a data block. The sending computer knows this and uses it as a signal to start the transmission.

<u>Sending Computer</u>	<u>Receiving Computer</u>
(waiting)	(waiting)
	(times out)
	NAK (15H)
Data Block 1	
	ACK (06H)
Data Block 2	
	ACK (06H)

RE-TRANSMITTING A BLOCK

What happens if the block is NAK'ed? Easy, the sending computer just re-sends the previous block.

<u>Sending Computer</u>	<u>Receiving Computer</u>
	...
Block #2 (errors)	
	NAK
Block #2 (again)	
	ACK
Block #3	
	...

But what if the sending computer never receives the ACK (or NAK)? The sending computer times out after 10 seconds, decides that it has failed, and re-transmits the block. This is the reason for the block numbers — the receiver detects that this is the previous block all over again, throws it away, and returns an ACK, thereby

catching up. The integrity of the block number is verified by summing the SOH (01 Hex) with the block number plus the complement of the block number — the result must be zero for a proper transfer (e.g., for block 7, 01 + 07 + F8 = 00).

1 The sequence of events then, looks like this:

<u>Sending Computer</u>	<u>Receiving Computer</u>
	...
Block #2	
	ACK (lost in transit)
Block #2 (again)	
	(Discards duplicate)
	ACK
Block #3	
	...

CONCLUDING A TRANSMISSION

Normal completion of a data transfer concludes with an EOT (END OF TRANSMISSION, 04H) from the sending computer, with a final ACK from the receiving computer.

<u>Sending Computer</u>	<u>Receiving Computer</u>
data block	
ACK	EOT (04H)
	ACK
-end program-	-end program-

MODEM7 BATCH TRANSFERS

The MODEM7 program allows "Batch" file transfers — the sending program says something like

SB NEWSTUFF.*

and the receiving program says simply "RB".

The B sub-option means (a) that more than one file will be transmitted and (b) that the sending computer will send the file names as well as the data. What we are concerned with is the protocol for sending the file name.

This function was added by someone other than Ward Christensen, and while it works, it doesn't look much like normal data communications practice. The basic scheme is that the sender sends the file name ONE CHARACTER AT A TIME, and the receiver ACKs each character separately. At the end, the sender sends an EOF (1AH) and the receiver replies with the checksum! If it matches, the sender sends an ACK, the receiver replies with a NAK, and we fall into the normal file transfer sequence.

<u>Sending Computer</u>	<u>Receiving Computer</u>
"Awaiting Name NAK"	"Awaiting File Name"
	(times out)
	NAK
1st Letter	
	ACK
2nd Letter	
	ACK
....	...
11th Letter	
	ACK
EOF (1AH)	
	Checksum
ACK	
	NAK
1st Data Block	
	

At the end of the data transmission, the receiver sends another NAK and gets either another file name or another EOT, indicating that there aren't any more.

(Note: This may not be precisely correct in all details — the program isn't too easy to read after all the volunteer labor on it! D.C.)

CRC CHECKING

MODEM7 also added a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) option. This replaces the one-byte checksum with two bytes of CRC. CRC checking is much more reliable than checksums, giving better than



99.99% probability that any data errors will be detected.

If CRC checking is requested, the receiving system sends a 'C' in place of the initial NAK. If the sender responds within 3 seconds, the transfer continues with CRC checking in effect. If there is no reply within 3 seconds, the receiver assumes that the sender doesn't know about CRC checking (old version or different program), sends a NAK, and settles down to use the old checksum system. In batch mode, the decision about the first file carries forward for the others.

MODEM7 and XMODEM are set up to use CRC checking by default, but the user can specify either method if he desires.

[The MDM70S.COM from FOG/UTL.001 defaults to checksum, while at the other end of the spectrum, MODEM712 (as of this writing, only the Executive version has been added to the library — see the FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS — although Gale has most of the other versions for the asking.) defaults to CRC. David]

ERROR ABORTS

The protocol will persevere through a reasonable amount of line noise, re-transmitting when necessary. If the line quality is really trash, however, after 10 retries (on the same block) the receiving computer will display "Retry or Quit?". If the operator enters "Q", a CAN (CANCEL, 18H) is sent to cancel the entire transfer session.

PROBLEMS

Unfortunately, the protocol is not entirely bullet-proof. While the following cases are very rare, they can conceivably occur:

At end of transmission, if the receiving computer misses the EOT, it will continue to wait for the next block (sending NAK's every 10 seconds, up to 10 times) and eventually "time-out".

There is a possibility that an ACK could be "garbled" to a CAN, thus aborting prematurely.

Do not use the "V" (View) sub-option during file transfer with a slow (4800 Baud or less) terminal or a hard copy printer. It takes too long to write each character to these terminals, so you don't always get back in time to catch the next one from the modem. This should be readily apparent if it occurs.

This article comes to us from the San Diego Computer Society. The Osborne SIG liason is Bruce Akers. The address is P. O. Box 81444 San Diego, CA, 92138.

* * * * *

If Osborne can't get off the mat, what do we do for an expanding membership? Change our name? How about...

First Obsolete Group	(pessimistic)
First Opera Group	(for those who hit high-C when they got the news)
First Omniscient Group	(for those who saw it coming)
First Oblique Group	(neither perpendicular nor horizontal; in shock)
First Open Group	(cheerfully welcoming the Osborne-compatible Kaypros, etc.)

By any other name, may we smell as sweet.

Al Ujcic
San Francisco, CA

* * * * *

The past year has been interesting and your work has certainly been appreciated. I hope you will continue and will not lose hope following the recent news about the Osborne Computer Corporation. The strength of a User Group may well prove to be of immense importance as time goes on.

I certainly would appreciate some way of communicating by modem. Then perhaps I may feel more able to write for the newsletter. If there is a Compuserve or Source user to whom I could send, it would help; however, a dedicated BBS online 24 hours would be better still (not a ringback system, as line costs at this distance are high).

Looking forward to the next newsletter.

Anthony L. Huxley
Ottawa, Canada

TIPS FOR TYROS

SYSGEN for the OSBORNE 0-1 NOVICE

By Robert Kavinsky

What is SYSGEN? SYSGEN stands for "system generator". It is a special kind of program for installing an operating system on the floppy disk tracks reserved for it.

Why do I need to install an operating system on my disks? All my Osborne disks come with the operating system already on them. True, the Osborne disks that come with your machine do have the appropriate operating system already installed but other programs you may buy or copy from public domain sources will not have an operating system at all or may have a system not suitable for your particular machine. Also, you may have your machine upgraded so that the original operating system is no longer suitable. Still another reason for putting the operating system on most if not all disks is the ability to boot the system from that disk if need be. Finally, you may choose to have several different operating systems for different purposes. Every time you use SET UP.COM to configure the user definable keys in a different way, you are creating a new operating system which you may want to save for future use.

Why can't I just PIP a new operating system onto my disk? PIP won't work because it can only transfer programs from the data tracks of one disk to the data tracks of another. PIP cannot access the system tracks at all.

To SYSGEN a system onto a disk, first boot the system from a disk containing SYSGEN.COM and load SYSGEN into memory by typing SYSGEN.COM and <cr>. Place a disk containing the system you want to install in one drive. This will be the "source" disk. Now place a formatted disk in the other drive. This will be the "destination" drive. From this point, just follow the instructions as they appear on the screen and presently you will have copied the operating system from the disk in the "source" drive to the disk in the "destination" drive.

How do I know if I need a new operating system? If your system will not boot it might be because you have the wrong operating system on that disk. SYSGEN the operating system from a disk that boots ok. If the new disk then boots you know that you had the wrong system or no system at all on the disk that would not boot.

How do I know what features my operating system has? Boot your machine and use SETUP.COM on your CP/M disk to examine or change your operating system. There are other ways to generate a system on your disks and there are other ways to check what system you actually have on your disk but the preceding procedure should serve the novice adequately in the beginning.

Happy computing!

* * * * *

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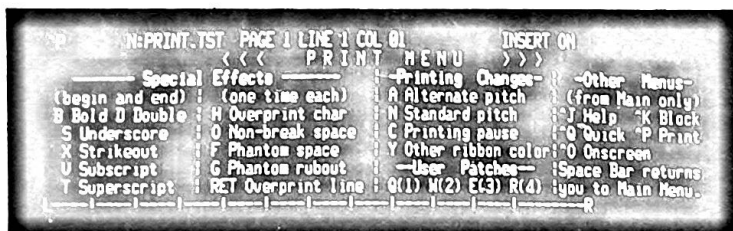
Please let FOG know of any difficulties encountered. Send all details, in writing, to the FOG office at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474, U. S. A. We can't promise a solution, but we will try to help.

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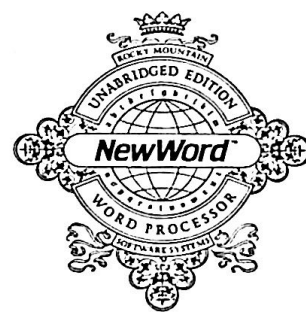
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Regarding the dBASE II Patches

by Gale Rhoades

There have been many questions about this patch which was published in the October *FOGHORN*. We are therefore repeating the patches with clarification (primarily a change in type styles). This assumes that you have not renamed your dBase to DO.COM or DB.COM and that you have it on the disk in drive B:. Remember that the period (.) is an important entry — it tell DDT or SID that you are finished with that particular entry.

With DDT on an Osborne 1:

A) DDT B:DBASE.COM <cr>

DDT Vers. 2.2

NEXT PC

4700 0100

- s130 <cr>

0130 05 01 <cr>

0131 1A . <cr>

- s154 <cr>

0154 80 50 <cr>

0155 18 . <cr>

- s395A <cr>

395A 3A C9 <cr>

395B 5A . <cr>

- ^C

A) save 70 B:dbase.com <cr>

With SID on an Executive:

A) save <cr>

A) SID B:DBASE.COM <cr>

CP/M 3 SID - Version 3.0

NEXT MSZE PC END

4700 4700 0100 CFFF

* s130 <cr>

0130 05 01 <cr>

0131 1A . <cr>

* s154 <cr>

0154 80 50 <cr>

0155 18 . <cr>

* s395A <cr>

395A 3A C9 <cr>

395B 5A . <cr>

* ^C

Enter file: b:dbase.com <cr>

Delete B:DBASE.COM? y <cr>

Beginning hex address 0100 <cr>

Ending hex address 4700 <cr>

Be aware of the fact that it is a violation of your enduser agreement with OCC (and Ashton-Tate) to use a single copy of dBase II on both your Osborne 1 and your Executive. This patch is not supplied to promote piracy, rather it is for those who have gotten the 80-column upgrade or who have been sold the Osborne 1 version of dBase II for their Executive. Now is not the time to alienate manufacturers by violating enduser agreements.

If you are unsure how to make these patches, get together with a knowledgeable friend and learn a little about SID or DDT. It's quite easy to make these changes. You enter only that which appears in boldface.

FOG's first RBBS in operation!

Well, it's finally up and running! The number is 415-755-2030. Please have your membership number handy — you'll need it for access to part of the system. Please be considerate of others in your use and restrict access time to a maximum of one hour. (That's about 90K at 300 baud.)

Remember, most of this system was paid for by the donation to the RBBS fund. If you enjoy it and have not yet done so, please consider a donation so we can get more boards operating.

The system uses an Osborne 1 and a Trantor hard disk. If you want to start a similar system, leave a message on the system so arrangements can be made for you to get copies of all the software.

LOOKING FOR LOCAL GROUPS?

For the name(s) of Affiliated Member Organization(s) or other local group(s) nearest you, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

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The following groups have formally affiliated with FOG. Many more groups are in the process of affiliating. Groups which affiliate receive 25% of each member's dues which is intended to help the group finance a local copy of the FOG disk library. Affiliation also enables faster delivery of the newest additions to the library. Other material, including some of the back issues of the *Portable Companion*, is being sent to the A.M.O. groups as it is gathered.

We also have information about many other groups throughout the world. Any person sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a description of their geographic area will be given the name(s) and address(es) of the group(s) nearest them. If you know of a group that may not be listed with FOG, please send any details available to you. We would like to know the names and addresses of the officers; time, date, and place of meetings; contact phone numbers; and any other details that will assist us in referring others to the group.

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VOL. XX No. XX

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RANDOM NUMBER GENERATION IN MBASIC

by D. M. Hurst

I cannot take even an ounce of credit for this article, but since I have not seen it appear in the *FOGHORN*, I feel obliged to pass it along.

As you may or may not know, MBASIC does not possess a *true* random number generator. It has a RANDOMIZER which you may seed with any number between -32,768 and +32,767 that will then produce 65,535 different numbers. If you use the same seed every time, you will get the same sequence every time from a RUN command. Now, if you are an honest person, this would pose no problem, because you would just take a stab at the keypad, and get a different sequence every time. There's an easier way.

Below is a short series of program lines which you should easily be able to fit in a program with almost no notice to the user whatever. When you "HIT ANY KEY TO CONTINUE", as commanded in line 10, you will have planted a seed number in the range allowed without even knowing it. Take a look at these lines and the REM statements that accompany each.

10 REM. This will print on the screen

20 PRINT "HIT ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"

30 REM: INKEY\$ is a function of MBASIC that when placed in a program is executed only if there is input present when the program passes through it. In the case below, we condition INKEY\$ to be something other than nothing before we can advance past line 20. Each time

FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE

It has since come to our attention that the manufacturer of the UNIFORM program employs a form of copy protection. This protection allows the buyer to make only two copies of the program and then to use the copies on only the computer on which they were copied. Only the first three tracks of the master disk use the Osborne (or KayPro) format. The rest of the disk is unique.

For those who have either a Double Density Osborne 1 or a KayPro 2 and need to use discs from other computers in their computer, UNIFORM is one answer. This program reads, writes, and formats diskettes for the following computers:

TRS-80 model I	Omikron CP/M
TRS-80 model III	Mem. Merch. CP/M
Xerox 820	SD & DD
NEC PC-8001	DD
Superbrain	Junior format
Micro Decision	DD
Heath/Zenith	Magnolia Board
Zenith Z-100	DD
TI Professional	CP/M-86 DD
DEC VT 180	DD
IBM PC	CP/M-86 DD
Access Matrix	DD
Osborne 1 DD	(from KayPro)
KayPro 2	(from Osborne 1 DD)

Anyone one considering the purchase of this item is reminded that the ability to read a disk format does not mean that a program will run on your Osborne 1. This program is intended to facilitate the sharing of text and data diskettes. Programs (applications, language, or operating systems are often tied to the computer they operate on. This is particularly true of the Osborne 1 since special installation is required to utilize the 52 column, auto-horizontal scrolling.

The price for UNIFORM is \$49.95. This includes 3rd class (surface) mailing. We have a small initial order in stock now. Delivery is quite prompt for reorders so there should be no delay in shipping the orders for UNIFORM.

One of the most popular items in the FOG inventory is the T-shirts with the FOG logo. These T-shirts are soft Osborne blue in color and are Hanes 100% cotton. They are cut large to allow for shrinkage. Sizes available are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44), and X-large (46-48).

The price is \$8.00 each (two for \$15.00) for members and \$10.00 each for non-members so be sure to include your membership number. Add \$1.00 for shipping.

FOG has several software packages available for sale. SMARTKEY, SMARTPRINT, and the CP/M Extension Utilities were all reviewed in Vol. I, Issue 10 (August, 1982). Further notes on and a new of SmartKey were included in the January, 1984 (Vol II, Issue 2).

One additional item has been added to the FBN Software line. This is a program called UNPROTECT. UNPROTECT is an 8080/8085/Z80 machine language program which runs under CP/M. Its purpose is to decrypt Microsoft BASIC (Release 5) files which have been saved in a protected format. It is hoped that anyone buying and using this software will remember that this program should only be used to correct errors in PROTECTED files of which you have a legal copy. Please bear in mind that piracy is both illegal and a sure way to reduce the software available for your use.

Prices on the software are as follows:

SMARTKEY only	\$60.00
SMARTPRINT only	\$35.00
SMARTKEY/SMARTPRINT	\$85.00
CP/M Ext. Utility Pkg	\$39.00
UNPROTECT	\$29.00
UNIFORM	\$49.95

We also have available a set of two cassette tapes which are designed for the new Osborne user. Created for a 1.2 rev. model Osborne, the tapes will be very helpful if listening to a step-by-step procedure is an easier way for you (or the family) to learn. The tapes are equally useful for a 1.3 or 1.4 rev. Osborne as the only real change that the FORMAT program is now a part of the COPY program. (On the 1.2 rev. these were two separate programs.) The set of tapes are \$25.00.

We have two minor other items in our inventory. One is the "green" screen for the Tan cased machines. Made from green or orange plexiglas, the screens come with necessary mounting. The price is \$5.50. Supply of these screens is limited to the stock on hand.

The other is the Verbatim head cleaners. We have about 4 of these in stock for \$9.50 each.

California members please add sales tax to the cost of any of these items. Overseas members should add first class airmail postage to the cost of any of the FOG merchandise.

To order any of these items, please send your payment in an envelope marked "MERCHANDISE" to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please include your membership-account number. If shipment cannot be made, your check will be refunded. We cannot sell the manuals separately.

* * * * *

line 20 contains nothing. SEED is upped by 1. Once the user inputs anything other than nothing from the keyboard, the program advances to line 30 and takes the last value of SEED with it.

```
40 IF INKEY$ = "" THEN SEED=SEED+1:GOTO 20 REM:
```

```
50 REM: Line 60 merely keeps the value of SEED between -32,768 and +32,767
```

```
60 SEED=SEED-32767*(INT(SEED/32767))
```

```
70 REM: now the RANDOMIZER is seeded with SEED
```

```
80 RANDOMIZE SEED*169
```

Without the lengthy REM statements it looks as follows:

```
10 PRINT "HIT ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"
```

```
20 IF INKEY$ = "" THEN SEED=SEED+1:GOTO 20
```

```
30 SEED=SEED-32767*(INT(SEED/32767))
```

```
40 RANDOMIZE SEED
```

In order to seed the same number twice in succession, you have to be mighty lucky or be able to think at the same speed as the interpreter.

To prove the program works, simply add line 50 as follows:

```
50 PRINT RND
```

Now, RUN the program over and over. Each time should yield a different output. As stated earlier, this can be cleverly placed in the front end of a program with some sort of salutation or what have you and be planted with the user being none the wiser.

I would love to give full credit to the contributor of this gem. I found it in a small newsletter that came in the mail one day for a group that was trying to get started. I haven't heard from them since, but this tidbit about random number generation was something I had been trying to achieve for a long time. Anyway, to the guy/gal who came up with the original, my hand.

Dear Editor

Regarding David DeShon's article on Elephant etc., in the March *FOGHORN*, to enable BOLD on the Olympia ES105, try sending 1B(H) 0E(H); to disable send 1B(H) 0F(H). I used ^PY (RIBBON; RIBOFF) address 06DD=02 06DE=1B 06DF=0E 06E2=02 06E3=1B 06E4=0F. Also "Half Space" is activated by 05 which I send via USER1 (^PQ). I don't know the answer to "Expand".

Warren A. Welsh
Fulton, MO

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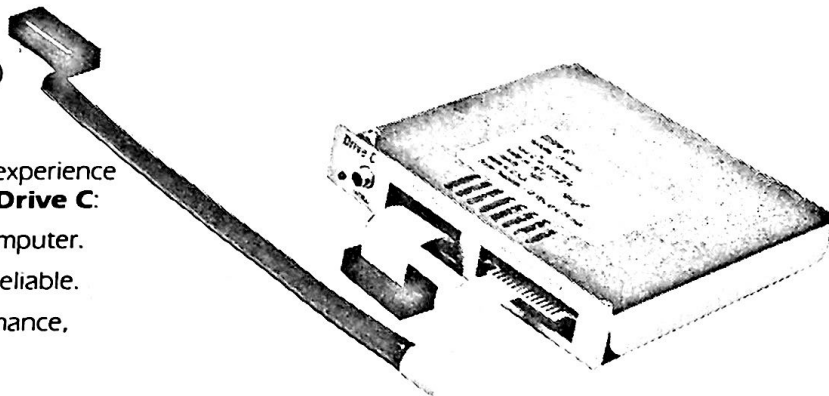
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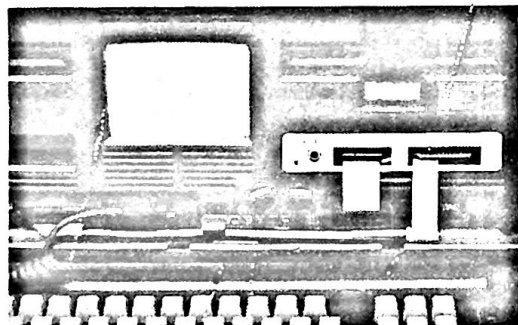
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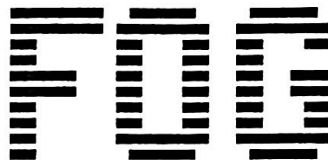
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The **FIRST OSBORNE GROUP (FOG)** has been formed as a User's Group for persons using or interested in portable computers and/or the CP/M disk operating system with related software. In September of 1983, there was over 5400 members from around the world. Most attend local group meetings at over 300 locations.

Computer systems owned or used by members include the Osborne 1 (single and double density), the Osborne Executive 1, all models of the Morrow MicroDecision, the Zorba, all models of the KayPro, several MicroMates, and many more. Special interest groups organized to augment a network of local group meetings include dBase II, Ham radio operators, Personal Pearl.

FOG was started in October of 1981 by a small band of early buyers of the Osborne 1. The primary purpose was to organize a library of public domain software to run on the Osborne 1. A newsletter was quickly started to act as a focal point for the group's activities. The large number of excellent contributions to both the library and the newsletter has produced a library of 111 disk (as of August 1, 1983) and a nicely typeset (24 or more pages) newsletter which is published monthly. All back issues of the **FOGHORN** are available for a nominal fee which includes shipping in the U.S. Contributions are currently being solicited for a bulletin board system which we hope to have in operation in the fall of 1983. It will accept both 300 and 1200 baud calls.

While the meetings are organized on a local basis, many of these local groups are joining the FOG network, thus increasing the sharing of information, tips, problems and so on. Those local groups which opt to formally join the FOG network receive a portion of local member dues to assist with the cost of maintaining a local copy of the disk library.

The FOG library is currently maintained on the Osborne 1 single density format but separate libraries are being established for the other computer formats. The library files are carefully screened and divided into category types (utilities, games, applications, and computer languages are the four major categories). Programs which contain run or other errors are put into the hacker section so interested members can fix them and resubmit for inclusion in the correct section. Items which do not fit into one of these categories are in the miscellaneous section. A catalog and descriptions of all the discs is maintained in the library section.

Dues in FOG are \$24.00 per year. This entitles each member to a copy of the **FOGHORN** each month as well as access to the disk library. Local group meetings are open to the public without charge although most restrict access to the library to the membership. The FOG library contains only public domain software. Piracy (the copying of proprietary software) is strongly condemned.

In the United States, the **FOGHORN** is normally mailed by non-profit bulk mail. (FOG is a corporation in the state of California and has obtained its non-profit, tax exempt status from both the state and federal governments.) For those members who live out of the country or who prefer first class delivery of their **FOGHORN**, additional postage must be added to the annual dues. See the chart below for details.

If you are interested in joining a self-help organization to increase your knowledge and the use of your computer, use the application below (or a copy of it). Generally, memberships received at the FOG office prior to the 15th of the month are entered in time to receive the next month's **FOGHORN**.

If you know of a local group which might be interested in joining the FOG network, please send all details (meeting dates and places, officers, and how interested local computer owners can join). We will send you an information packet on becoming an Affiliated Member Organization.

For your records, the address of FOG is P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least two months for the arrival of your first **FOGHORN** since bulk mail can take as much as nine weeks. (The post office says that it should only take about three weeks for non-profit bulk mail but some members on the East Coast have experienced longer delays.) A membership card will be processed within a week of the receipt of your dues.

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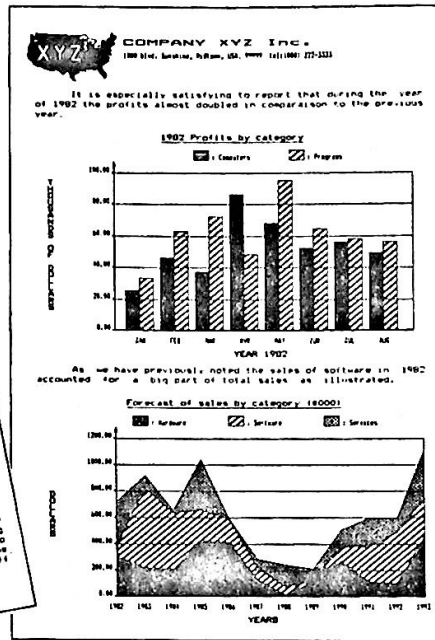
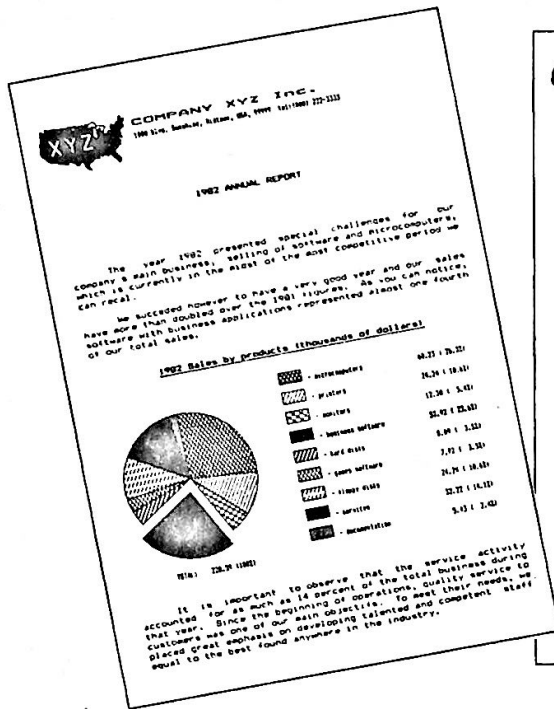
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